

TUBERCULOSIS

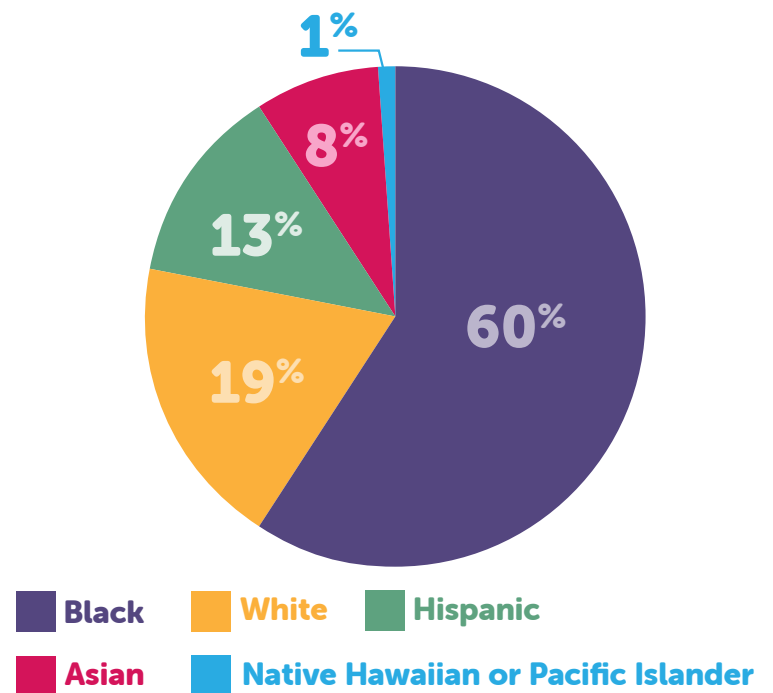
IN AFRICAN AMERICANS

TB disease is higher in African Americans.

Some common reasons are:

- limited access to health care
- living in a rural community
- higher unemployment
- stigma towards tuberculosis that prevents people from seeking care
- lack of understanding about tuberculosis

In South Carolina, African Americans have the highest rate of TB. In 2018, there were 86 TB cases; **60% (52 cases) were African American.**



ABOUT THE DISEASE



TB is caused by a germ that usually attacks the lungs, but the germ can attack any part of the body such as the kidney, spine, and brain.



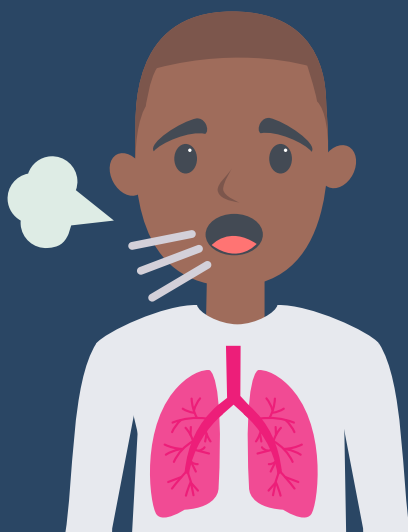
TB germs are spread through the air from one person to another.



TB germs are released into the air when a person with TB disease of the lungs or throat coughs, speaks, or sings.

TB is **NOT** spread by

kissing, shaking hands, sharing food or drink, touching bed linens or toilet seats or sharing toothbrushes.



Prevent TB disease and see a health care provider if you have:

- Coughing that lasts 3 or more weeks
- Coughing up blood
- Chest pain
- Weight loss
- Fatigue
- Fever
- Night Sweats
- Chills
- Loss of appetite

TB is curable and preventable!

If you have these symptoms or have been around someone who may have TB:

- Go to your family doctor, or
- Call the public health department and ask to speak to a TB nurse

Questions?

Send an email to us at TBControl@dhec.sc.gov or call (803) 898-0558.

